needs cited is the conversion to a treatment and neutralization-based system, rather than a landfill-based system. It is not clear how to reach this solution; meanwhile, landfilling continues for lack of an alternative, subject to increasing numbers of prohibitions. A number of highly toxic wastes have been banned from landfills, such as all halogenated solvents and heavy metals above certain concentrations. These streams, and others, must now be treated prior to disposal. Source reduction is a second obvious need cited by field personnel and would complement a treatment-based system.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The committee finds that land disposal of hazardous waste is a serious source of ground water contamination that requires urgent attention.

Therefore, the committee recommends that, as an essential element of each state's ground water protection program, a plan should be developed for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste within its boundaries. A program for waste minimization should be a key element in the plan. Such a program should also include a siting process for transportation, storage, and disposal facilities, including regional and on-site industrial incinerators. Exportation of hazardous waste, a temporary expedient that generally increases risks associated with transportation and decreases the assured overall level of environmental protection, should be considered or continued only in special circumstances. The federal government should have a role in mediating this decision in case arbitration is needed.

A unique approach to cleanup and control of hazardous waste was found to be New Jersey's Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act of 1983 (ECRA), which places responsibility for cleanup on industry before sale of property to a new owner. This type of legislation provides an effective prevention as well as remedial pollution control program.

Therefore, the committee recommends that other states should consider adoption of programs comparable to ECRA with broad application to provide incentives for good housekeeping by industrial firms, municipalities, and other significant polluting activities.

Management of Municipal Solid Waste

A comprehensive program to manage solid waste is an essential component of a state program designed to prevent ground water contamination. Sanitary landfills, the most frequently used method of solid waste disposal, and incinerator and resource recovery ash must be properly controlled.